

CONGRATULATING CROATIAN
SONS LODGE NUMBER 170

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate the Croatian Sons Lodge Number 170 of the Croatian Fraternal Union on the festive occasion of its 97th Anniversary and Golden Member banquet on Sunday, October 3, 2004.

This year, the Croatian Fraternal Union will hold this gala event at the Croatian Center in Merrillville, Indiana. Traditionally, the anniversary celebration entails a formal recognition of the Union's Golden Members, those who have achieved fifty years of membership. This year's honorees that have attained fifty years of membership include: Mary Badovinac, Betty Balanoff, Mary Lou Brown, Matthew Guglielmetti, George Kepcher, Margaret Knack, Anastasia Kresich, Charles Lacko, Beverly Perko, Mary Plesha, Theresa Anne Young, and Mary Ann Zorich.

These loyal and dedicated individuals share this prestigious honor with approximately 429 additional Lodge members who have previously attained this important designation.

This memorable day will begin with a morning mass at Saint Joseph the Worker Catholic Church in Gary, Indiana, with the Reverend Father Stephen Loncar officiating. The festivities will be culturally enriched by the performance of several Croatian musical groups. The Croatian Glee Club, "Preradovic," and the Hoosier Hrvarti Adult Tamburitza Orchestra, will both perform at this gala event. The Croatian Strings Tamburitza and Junior Dancers directed by Dennis Barunica will provide additional entertainment for those in attendance. A formal dinner banquet at 3:30 in the afternoon will end the day's festivities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Lodge president Betty Morgavan, and all the other members of the Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge Number 170, for their loyalty and radiant display of passion for their ethnicity. The Croatian community has played a key role in enriching the quality of life and culture of Northwest Indiana. It is my hope that this year will bring renewed hope and prosperity for all members of the Croatian community and their families.

RECOGNIZING FORD MOTOR
COMPANY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise to recognize the introduction of the 2005 Ford Escape Hybrid, expected to roll off the assembly lines at the Ford Claycomo Plant in Claycomo, Missouri, beginning in August.

The Escape Hybrid is the first vehicle of its kind to combine hybrid technology with SUV capability. The Escape Hybrid can be powered solely by the gasoline engine, solely by the electric motor, or by using both working together. The hybrid system automatically

switches between pure electric, pure gasoline, or combined operation to maximize fuel efficiency and performance, and the Escape Hybrid is projected to surpass 35 miles-per-gallon in city driving. Additionally, exhaust emissions will be lower than many vehicles currently on the market.

The technology that makes the Escape Hybrid possible is revolutionary, and the fact that Ford has produced a hybrid SUV demonstrates Ford's continued leadership in the automobile industry. I am proud that the Ford Claycomo Plant, located in Missouri's Sixth District, will assemble the Escape Hybrid. It is a testament to the employees at Claycomo, especially since the plant already produces Ford F-series models and the Escape and the Mazda Tribute.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Ford Motor Company and the Ford Claycomo Plant as they begin production of the Ford Escape Hybrid.

HONORING LOWELL C. KRUSE FOR
HIS 20 YEARS OF SERVICE AS
PRESIDENT AND CEO OF HEART-
LAND HEALTH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Lowell C. Kruse, President and CEO of Heartland Health, an employer of 2,600 located in St. Joseph, Missouri. Mr. Kruse has exemplified the finest qualities of leadership and service and is being honored for his 20 year commitment to Heartland Health and the people of northwest Missouri.

Mr. Kruse was born in Lake City, Iowa, just about four hours north of St. Joseph where he currently lives with his wife of 40 years, Leslie Marsden-Kruse. Together, Lowell and Leslie have three adult sons. Mr. Kruse began his career in 1967 as the Assistant Administrator of St. Barnabas Hospital in Minneapolis, Minnesota. For the next ten years, Mr. Kruse held leadership positions in a variety of health facilities in the Minneapolis area, before moving to New York in 1977 to become President and CEO of Park Ridge Hospital and Nursing Home in Rochester. Two years later, he became President and CEO of Update Health System, Inc. in Rochester. In 1984, Mr. Kruse came to St. Joseph as President and CEO of Heartland Health, and he hasn't looked back since. During Mr. Kruse's tenure as President and CEO, Heartland has been the recipient of the Missouri Quality Award, the Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence, and in 2000 was named one of the top 100 hospitals in the country for orthopedics and cardiovascular care. Mr. Kruse has been the recipient of the Justin Ford Kimball Innovators Award from the American Hospital Association, and the Visionary Leadership Award and the Distinguished Service Award from the Missouri Hospital Association. In addition to his work at Heartland, Mr. Kruse currently serves on the Boards of Directors for Premier, Inc., the Excellence in Missouri Foundation, and the Missouri State Coordinating Board for Higher Education.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the career of Lowell C. Kruse,

who exemplifies the qualities of dedication and service to Heartland Health and the people of northwest Missouri.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
ZACHARY VIRGIN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Zachary Virgin, an angel of light and love, whose brief journey here brought joy and love to his mother and father, Shane and Joseph, and to everyone who held him, loved him, and gazed upon him.

Forever perfect and innocent baby Zachary's message of giving and grace brought light and warmth into our world. He will live forever within the hearts and memories of his parents, and his song will be heard for all time.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Zachary Virgin, whose beautiful, brief life has become a miracle of life for others. We honor and recognize the love and courage of Shane and Joseph Virgin, loving parents of baby Zachary. We extend our condolences to you both, and to your extended family and friends, and we wish you strength and peace within your deep sorrow.

An angel of heaven, baby Zachary will forever soar with a song of life and message of hope for other babies: A baby breathes with his breath; a baby sees with his eyes; a baby lives with his life. Baby Zachary is their guardian angel, he lives on through all of them, and he will never be forgotten. May his life, love, and memory forever bring you strength, comfort and peace.

TRIBUTE HONORING THE 60TH
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF MR.
AND MRS. ALBERT JOHNSON, SR.

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Albert Johnson, Sr. on their 60th wedding anniversary. A celebration in their honor is being hosted by their children at the Galloping Hill Caterers in Union, New Jersey on Friday, August 27, 2004.

Albert Johnson, Sr. and the former Loretta Cobb were married in Newark, New Jersey on August 24, 1944. This blessed union produced six children, fourteen grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren. The Johnsons made their home in Newark before moving to Hillside, New Jersey in the late sixties. Mr. Johnson retired from the United States Post office after working there for many years. Mrs. Johnson was a homemaker and childcare provider. She delighted in providing a warm and nurturing environment for her young charges.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are deeply religious and they celebrate their faith at the Emanuel Missionary Baptist Church in Newark. Mr.